

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 12-19-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours: Tuesday, February 5th, 9:30-11:00am Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Cedar Ave Sidewalks
- 2) Fatal Shooting of West Bank Child
- 3) Regulating Firearms
- 4) Arrest in Riverside Park Sexual Assault
- 5) Shooting on Cedar
- 6) Red Sea Liquor License
- 7) 2013 Budget
- 8) "Green Line" Support for Businesses
- 9) Chief Harteau Confirmed
- 10) New Inspector: Bryan Schafer
- 11) 515 on the Park / Currie Park Lofts
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) As you may know, the City and County have allocated funds to redo the sidewalks on Cedar Avenue between 7th Street S and the new Central Corridor light rail station. At a site visit on November 19th, it became clear that, to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, most or all of the curb and gutter on the west side of Cedar between 4th and 6th Streets will have to be replaced. This presents an opportunity to potentially widen the sidewalk as part of this project, if a) Hennepin County agrees to change Cedar between 4th and 6th from a four-lane to a three-lane roadway and b) additional funding is allocated to the project. In order to have a functional sidewalk on the east side of Cedar, it may be necessary to do the east side in 2013 and the west side in 2014 or later. I would welcome the input of the WBCC on this question.
- A Second Ward two-year-old named Neeinco Xiong was accidentally shot to death earlier this month by his four-year-old brother. I cannot begin to express how tragic this is and how devasting it must be the child's family. My thoughts and prayers go out to them all. It seems that this child's father brought a handgun into his home for "personal protection." It sounds like the gun was stored loaded and unlocked, which Minneapolis Police were right to point out is against state law. There was a vigil for Neenjco on December 8th. There is some question as to whether the gun owner was told in his gun safety training that he could store the weapon in this loaded and unlocked state. Protect Minnesota is calling for an investigation by Public Safety Commissioner Ramona Dohman into whether the gun safety training was conducted properly. If you have a handgun in your home, please consider getting rid of it, especially if there are children in the home. The police are available to take and properly dispose of handguns. To turn in a gun, please call 311. If you decide to keep it, please follow the law and store it unloaded (no rounds in the chamber or the magazine, and bullets stored separately from the weapon) and locked.
- 3) I have been taking a serious look at improving the regulation of ammunition and firearms in Minneapolis for several years now. We need to do more to restrict so-called "straw purchases" (when someone buys a gun for someone else who is legally barred from doing so), and to require people to report to law enforcement when their guns are resold, lost or stolen. Unfortunately, even if the entire City Council and a majority of Minneapolis residents supported enacting a law that would require this in Minneapolis, we would be unable to do so. In 1985, the state legislature took away Minneapolis' authority to regulate guns, except those regulations specifically related to their "discharge." I believe it is time for the legislature to restore that authority and to give us more flexibility in determining how best to regulate handguns in Minneapolis. I also support changing federal law and hope that Congress and the President will do so next year.

- 4) The suspect in November's sexual assault in Riverside Park has been arrested and charged with the assault. The suspect's name is Louis Richard Oliver. He was arrested near Region's Hospital in St. Paul, after having been reported "approaching females" near their parking lot. He matched the sketch from the victim's description, and was interviewed by Minneapolis police prior to the charges being filed. This is good news for the Riverside Park area, and I hope it will bring some closure to the victim.
- 5) There was a non-fatal shooting on the 500 block of Cedar at approximately 4am on the morning of Sunday, December 16th. The victim is a 22-year-old male who lives in St. Paul. He is expected to recover. He has told investigators that he does not know the identity of the shooter, as he was intoxicated at the time of the shooting. I have asked the First Police Precinct to inform me when we have any further information.
- 6) The Council has voted to approve a Class B Liquor License for the Red Sea bar on the West Bank. I want to thank the owners and Licensing staff for their work to craft a mutually agreeable set of operating conditions. I hope and expect that the new license will allow the Red Sea to be successful and a positive force in the community.
- 7) The Council has adopted the 2013 budget. It includes a manageable levy increase of 1.77%, lower than the rate of inflation. Seventy percent of Minneapolis property taxpayers will see their City taxes stay flat or go down. The budget includes more money for streets and other infrastructure and invests in public safety, adding \$2.5 million to the Police Department with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer. The budget also adds \$1.1 million to hire firefighters so that the Fire Department can prepare for expected retirements. This level of investment comes on top of a federal SAFER grant of \$1.07 million received earlier this year.
- 8) The Met Council has put together some great promotional materials for businesses along the Central Corridor or "Green Line" that you can find here: http://onthegreenline.com/. Many Second Ward businesses are featured prominently in these materials, which include a catering and delivery guide and promotional booklet complete with coupons. I encourage everyone to eat and shop at Green Line businesses, both during the remainder of construction and after the Central Corridor opens in 2014.
- 9) Chief Harteau was sworn in Dec. 4 as Minneapolis' 52nd chief of police. In her remarks at the swearing-in, Chief Harteau pledged that her key values, and the key values of what she termed "MPD 2.0," will be commitment, integrity and transparency. I joined all Council members in supporting her appointment as Chief. Harteau joined the Minneapolis Police Department as an officer in 1987, at age 22. From 2006–2009, she served as inspector of the 1st Precinct in downtown Minneapolis, where she advanced public/private partnerships that led to the formalization of the Downtown SafeZone Collaborative and the Downtown Courtwatch program. Harteau, who is of French Canadian and Native American descent, is the first woman to lead the Minneapolis Police Department.
- 10) New Chief Harteau has announced the new Inspector for the First Precinct: Bryan Schafer. Inspector Schafer is a 29-year veteran of law enforcement. He has been with the Minneapolis Police Department for the past 21 years and most recently commanded the 2nd Precinct in the Northeast and Southeast neighborhoods of Minneapolis. In 2006, Schafer was assigned as the Commander of the newly centralized Juvenile Unit, where the emphasis is on juvenile violent crime. Inspector Schafer has been instrumental in collaborating with community and criminal justice partners to influence juvenile justice reform in Hennepin County, which has resulted in significant decreases in juvenile violent crime. I have worked with Inspector Schafer during his three and a half years as Inspector of the 2nd Precinct, and I think he'll be a great partner for the West Bank.
- 11) Because of the building's potential historic significance, in December the City's Historic Preservation Commission denied Fine Associates' request to demolish the last building standing on the site of the new prosed apartment building they hope to build at 6th Street and 15th Avenue. This decision was appealed to the City Council where the appeal was granted in part: they received permission to move the Gluek Brewing Tied House/old Rainbow Gallery, but not tear it down. The owner/developer was also required to submit a site plan application for the new location, 1527 6th St, subject to administrative approval by staff. Additional concerns have come from the community on the location of the pedestrian route through the site, from Riverside Plaza to Currie Park and the Brian Coyle Center. The decision about where this route should be will impact decisions about where to place bump-outs as part of the City's reconstruction of 15th Ave S. I hope to receive guidance from the WBCC about this question.
- 12) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Charter Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, MTN Board, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.